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Councilmember Rose Herrera Calls for Return of 17 Sworn Officers to Street Duty

SAN JOSE, CA – Councilmember Rose Herrera is calling for support of San José Police Chief Chris Moore’s recommendation that 17 sworn San José Police officers return to street duty. These 17 sworn officers have been taken off street duty and assigned to conduct background checks on new police recruits. Chief Moore reported during the August 16, 2012 meeting of the City Council’s Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee that the Police Officer’s Association (POA) is resisting the recommendation to return the officers back to their regular assignments even though its common practice in the public safety community that background checks are civilianized or performed by hiring retired police officers to conduct the checks.

“As a councilmember and a city leader I’m very concerned about crime rates in our community,” states Councilmember Herrera, “With the city experiencing a rise in homicides and gang violence, now is not the time to withhold critical resources.”

Councilmember Rose Herrera addressed the Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee at the August 16, 2012 meeting to highlight questions asked in the memo she co-authored with Mayor Chuck Reed on July 25, 2012. Councilmember Herrera and Mayor Reed requested a series of reports from Chief Moore and his department including burglary rates year over year, planned and actual staffing levels, and criteria for shifting resources from one area of the city to another. In addition, they requested information on what actions are being planned by the to address rising burglary rates.

With the passage of Measure B, implementation must be prioritized. The San José City Council can begin to consider how services can be restored as savings are realized from the Fiscal Reform Plan. The redeployment of resources is crucial for prioritizing safety issues and the negative effect of removing 17 sworn officers from street duty to background checks has to be addressed.

“I want to make sure we’re doing everything we can to protect the public, prevent crimes when possible and solve them when they occur,” states Councilmember Herrera.

During the August 16th Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee meeting Councilmember Herrera added a request for a report on burglary crimes solved 10 years ago in comparison to this year’s rate. The results of this request are pending.

About Councilmember Rose Herrera

Councilmember Rose Herrera represents District 8 in the City of San José. She is a member of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force and Chair of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force Community Engagement Subcommittee.

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